

OBHS News

Newsletter of the Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc. ©2023
Founded in 1998 to Gather, Preserve and Share the History and Heritage of the Old-Brule Region.

Volume XXVII, Issue 1

September 8, 2025

Board Of Directors

Jim Mattson, President
Jackie Plunkett, Vice-President
Donna Bergsten, Poplar, Secretary
Ron Hendrickson, Parkland, Treas.

Bruce Bergsten, Poplar
Bruce Carlsson
Basil Edgette, Lake Nebagamon
Brian Paulson, Poplar

Jared Crozier
Mary Ann Gronquist, Parkland
Jim Pellman, Maple, Alt



Monday, October 13, 2025

6:00 p.m. ~ Coffee and Goodies

Three veterans from the Richard I Bong Veterans Historical Center will be discussing their tours of duty during the Viet Nam war. Eual Moore served with the Army Corps of Engineers, Ryan Jost served with the Army Security Agency and Clint Mattson served in the infantry with the 101s Airborne Division. Their power point presentation will also provide opportunity for questions.

From the President

As I begin my term as President of OBHS I feel it is important to take note of the achievements of outgoing President Dennis Hill. Dennis Hill's main focus centered on saving the Davidson Windmill. The windmill is Old Brule Heritage Society's "crown jewel". For several critical years Dennis Hill worked at securing donations for the upgrading and preserving of the Davidson Windmill. Moreover, Dennis worked as the "Project Manager" for the windmill restoration. He worked closely with the various contractors to revitalize the windmill. The fruit of his efforts is a windmill that should stand for many years to come. A big THANK YOU Dennis for your achievement of restoring our windmill.

Looking to the future OBHS has many projects that require our attention. Work is continuing at the Depot with many improvements being made this year. The interior of the Depot now has an area for our Board of Directors to meet during the warmer months. I encourage everyone to stop by and view the improvements at the Windmill and Depot during open house events.

Work continues at the Research Center/Monticello School in Maple. Recently electrical work has been done within the Research Center including installation of lights, switches and outlets. The Archives Committee continues going through and organizing records from the Old Brule township. Some of these documents are 130 years old. Efforts are ongoing to scan these documents to preserve these fragile records well into the future.

We always need volunteers to help us with these projects. Individuals can help with various tasks ranging from scanning documents, organizing materials and cleaning/yardwork to building maintenance.

James Mattson, President



Baker's Needed

Bake Sale during AppleFest
Weekend October 3-5

We are in need of members to help out cleaning the facilities, giving tours & baking for the bake sale!

Correction of story from June minutes: It was Toni Marlene Christensen, great-granddaughter, who donated the trunk of Col. Charles Hooker to O-BHS. The chest was inherited from Charles Hooker's daughter, Ida Hooker Rice. She gave it to her daughter, Violet Rice Andberg, who gave it to Marion Andberg Christensen.

Unapproved Minutes of the August 11, 2025 Old-Brule Heritage Society ~ General Meeting at Amnicon Town Hall

Thank you to Donna Bergsten, Jackie Plunkett and the Archives committee for the presentation on our organization over the years and some of the great finds they have uncovered while going through the archives..

BUSINESS MEETING

The August 11, 2025, business meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m. by President Dennis Hill.

Minutes of the June meeting were approved as printed in July newsletter by Jim Mattson, seconded by Basil Edgette. Motion passed. No correspondence.

Treasurer's report was distributed and explained by Ron Hendrickson. Motioned by Charlene Harms, seconded by Jackie Plunkett to accept treasurer's report. Motion Passed.

Committee Report:

Membership: There are about 73 memberships.

Archive: Donna Bergsten reported that the Archives group is still meeting to continue to go through items in the storage unit. We have started to go through some of the items from the Carlson Safe. More items need to be moved from Jim Pellman's to the storage unit

Monticello Project: Jim Mattson also reported that work has progressed on the Monticello School and research center. Troy Follis is working on the electrical work for us.

Windmill & Grounds: Ron Hendrickson reported low voltage lighting will be installed on Friday. There are tours this Saturday and people are needed to help. There will also be a Flea/Farmer's Market included. Mary Ann Gronquist voiced concern that not enough information went out about the flea/farmer's market. Mary Ann also asked if the picnic tables can be painted – that is the eventual plan. Also, the bench that Stack Bros made for us, can it be moved?

Eskolin House: Nothing new to report.

Blueberry Depot: Ron Hendrickson reported that Peter Martin will be help finish the north facing exterior. Once building is painted, the loading platform will be a focus. They are planning to paint the outside in the next few weeks.

Pollari Map: A project than anticipated.

Merchandise: Discussion of sale of books and which need to be restocked. Donna Bergsten provided the inventory list that was taken June 2024. We need to update the list and go through each item and figure how to order each item. Charlene Harms and Jackie Plunkett will be checking on how to re-order some of the books.

By-laws: There are a few "housekeeping" items that need looking at. There will be upcoming discussion on how to handle donations. Tabled for now.

Unfinished Business:

- FinnFest was Thursday, July 31. About 25 enjoyed the tour. We reaped donations in the amount of about \$94.
- Discussion of Fundraising – The vendors participating in the Flea/Farmer's Market at the Windmill Tour this Saturday will make a free-will donation to OBHS.
- Discussion of needing a larger fundraiser.
- Jim Pellman stated that he has a \$4000 check to match funds raised this year for a septic system at Monticello. There was much discussion of time being of the essence for continuing with work at the school. Discussion of cost of system. Need to check with area businesses for costs. Jim Mattson stated that he has the highest respect for Jim Pellman, but does not agree with a water and septic system at the school. Jim Mattson motioned, seconded by Bruce Bergsten to have the well and septic tabled until a later date. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Sterling North – We received a request of information from John Foust, who is writing a book on Sterling North, author of the book "Rascal". He is wondering if a character in the book, Bert Bruce, was a real person and where in Brule they actually stayed. If anyone knows, please contact Donna Bergsten at oldbrule.hs@gmail.com.
- 2026 meetings – there is a new person who will be coordinating the reservations at Amnicon Town Hall. It was motioned by Jim Mattson, seconded by Bruce Bergsten to keep the dates as similar to 2025. Motion passed. Dennis Hill will make arrangements.
- Nominations for Directors: Bruce Carlson, Brian Paulson and Jim Pellman (would only accept alternate position). Unanimous ballot cast and passed.

Upcoming Dates:

Board Meeting: September 6 @ 6:00 p.m. at Eskolin House/Depot.

General Meeting: October 13, 2025 @ 6:00 pm – Amnicon Town Hall

Program: Vietnam Experience

Sympathy and Encouragements:

- Encouragement: Wayne Kari, Jim Pellman
- Sympathy: Julia Rinnet, Myron "Tub" Olson

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Bergsten, secretary

Old-Brule Heritage Society

New Executive Board Meeting, August 11, 2025

Attendance: Bruce Bergsten, Bruce Carlsson, Jim Pellman, Jim Mattson, Mary Ann Gronquist, Jackie Plunkett, Ron Hendrickson, Basil Edgette and Donna Bergsten.

Jim Mattson, Vice President call this group to order at 8:07 pm to determine officers.

It was discussed that these terms will be for 3 years.

President: Jim Mattson

Vice-President: Jacki Plunkett

Secretary: Donna Bergsten

Treasurer: Ron Hendrickson

Alternate: Jim Pellman

A unanimous ballot was cast by Bruce Bergsten, seconded by Basil Edgette. Motion passed.

Donna stated that Bruce and she will not be at the September meeting. Jackie Plunkett will take the minutes and send to Donna to complete the newsletter.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:14 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Donna Bergsten, secretary

Old-Brule Heritage Society

Unapproved Minutes for the September 8, 2025 Board Meeting Old-Brule Heritage Society ~ Blueberry Depot

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Mattson at 6:03 p.m.

Roll call was taken: Jim Mattson, Jackie Plunkett, Ron Hendrickson, Brian Paulson, Bruce Carlsson, Mary Ann Gronquist, Basil Edgette, Bruce and Donna Bergsten and we have 2 vacancies on the board.

Minutes of the July meeting. Motioned by Mary Ann Gronquist, seconded by Basil Edgette to accept as printed. Motion passed. No correspondence brought to the board.

Treasurer's report. Ron Hendrickson passed around the report. He explained that a donation was placed in general fund and will be transferred to a specific fund. Discussion of how to let people know what to do if a project is complete, so that donations are not made to that fund. Jackie Plunkett motioned to not include donors names in the newsletter, but can make mention of donations, excluding corporations. Seconded by Ron Hendrickson. Motion passed. Discussion of Pollari Fund. A donation was presented from the Class of 1975 for the Archives.

President's Report:

- Jim Mattson asked that all board members keep their addresses and phone numbers current with the secretary.
- Blue Volunteer Sheets were distributed and recommended that all board members fill these out. These stats are used when writing for grants, etc.
- Committees:

Finance:	Chair: Ron Hendrickson	Jim Mattson	Bruce Bergsten	Donna Bergsten
Merchandise & Publications:		Mary Ann Gronquist	Donna Bergsten	
Pollari Map:	Chair: Jackie Plunkett	Bruce Carlsson	Brian Paulson	Jim Pellman

There was discussion of the purpose of this project: make a map for use in school, depot, etc. It was suggested to do the map by towns.

Programming:	Donna Bergsten	Jackie Plunkett	Mary Ann Gronquist
By-laws:	Chair: Jim Mattson	Donna Bergsten	
- Keys: Dennis Hill brought keys for the safe deposit box. Discussion of additional keys needed. Suggestion to get 3 sets and give one to the local fire department.
Brian Paulson returned his keys for the Eskolin House.
- Paperwork for NBC has been signed by officers.

Committees:

- Membership: we have 71 members
- Web site: The web site is tentatively built and needs pictures and review.
- Archives: We are going through the "Carlson Safe" items. Many have been so damaged that they cannot be saved. There are many that have been saved. These are being scanned and indexed. There are many that have black mold and hopefully can be scanned. Jackie Plunkett asked Jim Pellman how much more items that we have at his house – he stated it was just a desk, file cabinet, pull down maps and a couple files on Maple and his family. He is writing a book and when he is done he will give these to us.
Jackie stated that she will be going to the Maple Town Hall vault to see what is in the 2 file cabinets and archival boxes.
- Monticello – The biffy has been delivered, but needs to be set! Bruce Bergsten will check with Joe Grube about doing some dirt work to set the biffy.

Troy Follis is about 90% done with electrical work. Discussion if inspection needed of electrical work. Ron Hendrickson to check with insurance. We want 2 electrical lines to go up to the school.

The vault door has been hung.

John Tuura needs to purchase the 2 pumps for the floor heating system.

Jackie talked to Jim Pellman about the wainscoting – there is more wood at his house. There is a gentleman in Two Harbors who we need to check with re: additional old wood.

Jerry Fechtelkotter had wanted to have her grandson, Cody, make additional wainscoting for the school.

Jackie is working on where the wiring should go and what she would like to see the school look like.

The Tools are Jim Pellman's and he can remove them as needed.

Flooring – Basil Edgette stated that the Vaughn Library is renovating and the flooring is being torn up and sent to Waste Management. Jackie will call Waste Management to see if any wood is available and/or keep her informed of wood that they receive.

The foam that was taken off the ceiling can be cut and placed in the walls with a barrier – this will be OK as the room will be heated year round.

- Windmill and grounds: The windmill project is complete. Thanks to all who have contributed time, talents and money for this two year project. Hopefully people a hundred years from now will get to appreciate this part of our local history. However, we still need financial support for the ongoing archives and research center at the Monticello school and our usual financial obligations.

Bo & Lindzie Higgins have asked if they can take care of the lawn. Yes, Thank you!

Low voltage lights will be placed for lighting.

Ron has asked to have 2 signs made for donations, with what the monies will be used.

The rock retaining wall for the windmill is completed.

Picnic tables – can they be painted and moved where they will be more used?

- Eskolin House: Jim Mattson, Mary Ann Gronquist and Donna Bergsten will be meeting there to go through the file cabinet and boxes in storeroom and to see what the facility may need. Mary Ann would like the screen door fixed so that it doesn't scrape on concrete, discussion of calking between logs and glazing on windows. Charlene Harms will be taking care of the roses and discussion of contacting Joe Grube to build flower box.
- Depot: Discussion of desk area. Donna Bergsten would like to store some of the promotional materials for OBHS in the desk. The desk has been staged with authentic memorabilia. Basil Edgette suggested placing plexiglass over drawers to safeguard the items. Basil stated that he would get the plexiglass. The display cabinet needs re-painting. The outside of depot will be painted above, then Smart-Siding will be applied to the lower half of the building. Once the outside is painted, the next project will be the loading platform. Eventually the inside of the building will be painted a light color. Tags will be applied to items displayed in depot, as if they are enroute to someone in the area. Brian Paulson stated that eventually he will be donating a baggage scale. Brian also has paperwork showing where funding was allocated on Jan 1, 1900 for the depot.
- Merchandising: Ron Hendrickson stated that there are only 4 Davidson Windmill books remaining. Silver Tonsberg can scan the booklet for \$12. Donna asked if we can get the digital copy from them. The booklet needs updating. Jane Grimsrud contacted Jackie Plunkett re: her book and getting additional copies. Jane charges \$10, but will get us a discount. It was motioned by Bruce Bergsten, seconded by Jackie Plunkett to order 20 books. Motion passed. Mary Ann Gronquist showed some Wisconsin Historical Society booklets that we have – what are we going to do with these? One suggestion was to have a genealogy workshop using the booklet.
- By-laws: Discussion of the draft of the donation form and addition of new section re: donations. The by-law draft (see attached) will be brought before the general membership with the added sentence re: designation of fund at a fundraising event. Motioned by Jackie Plunkett, seconded by Bruce Bergsten. Motion passed.
- Refrigerator: Dustin Soyering will be donating a 95 year old French-door refrigerator to us to be used as we see fit. Value of \$3000. Discussion of how to utilize it. Motioned by Jackie Plunkett, seconded by Bruce Bergsten to acquire the refrigerator for fundraising in the future. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Board members: Jim Mattson has contacted Jared Crozier to see if he would like to continue on the board. No response, yet. Ron Hendrickson will check with Roger Johnson to see if he would like to stay on the board.
- Mary Ann Gronquist stated that there is a school museum in Askov, MN and wondering if we would like to do a road trip and tour the facility. Tabled for now.

Unfinished Business:

- Will there be a flea and/or farm market at the Apple Fest weekend at the Windmill. There is a lot of work setting this up. It was decided not to host at this time.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bergsten

O-BHS Secretary

Proposed New By-Law

drafted: August 18, 2025

Article IV. Section 3. Financial Donations

Financial donations given to O-BHS shall be handled in the following manner:

Undesignated Donations:

Financial donations that are undesignated by the donor(s) shall be deposited in the general account. The Board of Directors at their board meeting and/or the membership at the General Membership meeting shall decide upon the use of these undesignated funds.

Designated Funds:

Designated donations shall state the area(s) where the donor desires the funds to be used. The donor may select more than one area and the specific amounts from their donation for each if multiple areas are chosen.

Multiple areas for donations to O-BHS are: Windmill, Depot/Sauna, Eskolin House/Bridge fund, Research Center, Monticello School or general fund. The Board of Directors may designate additional areas for donation at their discretion.

Fundraising:

Fundraising efforts shall endeavor, when ever possible to offer potential donors the option of either designated funds to a particular area (as noted above) or donating the funds as undesignated with the money being deposited in the general fund. Donation forms shall be available detailing the options donors shall have when donating funds to O-BHS. The board may designate a specific fund for special fundraising efforts.

Financial donations given to O-BHS shall be handled in the following manner:

Sympathy and Encouragement: *Wayne Kari, Pat Luostari, Jim Pellmn*

Sympathy to the families of:

Marvin A. Hermanson "Herm", 79, passed away in Brule, WI on Friday, June 27, 2025

Myron Robert Olson (Tub), 81, of Brule, WI, passed away on Monday, July 28, 2025

Juliana Burke-Rinnet, 107, passed away on August 2, 2025 at Twin Ports Health Care in Superior, formerly of Maple.

Dorothy Vik, 92, passed away on August 5, 2025 at New Perspectives in Superior, WI, formerly of Poplar.

Kathryn "Kit" Wilson, 88, passed away on Tuesday, August 5, 2025 in Superior, WI, formerly of Solon Springs

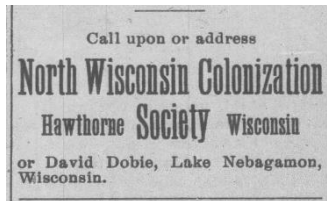
Elsie E. Schultz, 99, of Lake Nebagamon, passed away Sunday, August 10, 2025

John Hugo Anttila, 83, Maple, WI passed away on August 15, 2025

Ronald Markon, 82, longtime Maple, WI resident passed away on August 20, 2025

Program Planning

A group of members are getting together to plan next years programs. Any suggestions for programs, speakers, etc. please send to Oldbrule.hs@gmail.com



All who are interested in joining the Old-Brule Heritage Society are encouraged to attend any of our meetings and public programs. To join please fill out the form below for us. Membership is for the calendar year. Higher levels of support are always welcome and appreciated. Thank you!

New members and visitors are always welcome!

O-BHS Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Would you like to receive newsletters by: ☐ email ☐ USPS mail

Are you able to assist with any projects?
☐ Monticello School ☐ serving on the Board ☐ Davidson Windmill
☐ Eskolin House ☐ Blueberry Depot

Return to: Old-Brule Heritage Society
 PO Box 24, Maple, WI 54854

RETURN ADDRESS:
Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 24
Maple, WI 54854

Our newsletters printed by Pro Print in Superior, WI.



We are looking at cleaning up our newsletter mailing list. If you are receiving a newsletter and do not care to continue, please let us know at oldbrule.hs@gmail.com. Also, please check your mailing label for your membership dues expiration date.

2025 Calendar

September 20	10:00 am – 4:00 pm	Windmill Tour	
Oct 3-5	10:00 am – 4:00 pm	Windmill Tour and Bake Sale	
October 13	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	O-BHS General Meeting <i>Program: Vietnam Experience</i>	Amnicon Town Hall
November 10	6:00 p.m.	O-BHS Board Meeting	Amnicon Town Hall
November 11	<i>Veteran's Day</i>		
November 27	<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>		
December 8	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	O-BHS General Meeting <i>Program: Christmas Program</i>	Amnicon Town Hall
December 25	<i>Christmas Day</i>		

2026 Schedule

January 1	<i>News Years Day!</i>		
January 12	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Amnicon Town Hall
February 9	6:00 p.m.	General Membership Meeting	Amnicon Town Hall

We are in the process of updating our web site www.oldbrule.org, but it has not yet been completed. If there is something that you would like to see in the newsletter, please let us know at OldBrule.hs@gmail.com. Thank you!

All who are interested in joining the Old-Brule Heritage Society are encouraged to attend any of our meetings and public programs.